

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 OMB-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 SP-02 EUR-08

IO-03 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /056 W

----- 062327

O R 251243Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 485

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0611

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : ENRG, QA

SUBJECT : QATAR OIL SITUATION: 100 PERCENT TAKE OVER
PRICES, ETC.

REF: (A) LONDON 7669; (B) DOHA 539 (NOTAL);
(C) DOHA 552 (NOTAL); (D) DOHA 565

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON QATAR OIL SITUATION REPORTED BY
EMBASSY LONDON (REF A).

2. GENERAL SITUATION REMAINS MURKY, WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES
EITHER UNAVAILABLE OR UNCOMMUNICATIVE. MAY 24 REPORT ON SAUDI
RADIO THAT GOQ WOULD UNILATERALLY ANNOUNCE 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER
"WITHIN TWO DAYS" HAS CAUSED RESUMPTION OF RUMORS THAT QATARIS
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DETERMINED TO BE FIRST TO ACCOMPLISH 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER, REGARD-

LESS OF CONSEQUENCES, SINCE IT THEIR ASSESSMENT THAT POLITICAL IMPACT OF SUCH ACTION WOULD BE PLUS FOR GOQ IMAGE, AND WOULD NOT IN FACT PREJUDICE EVENTUAL TERMS OF TAKEOVER.

3. RE PRICE, WE ARE TOLD THAT IMPASSE CONTINUES WITH GOVERNMENT REFUSING REDUCTION. WE HAVE HEARD THAT GOQ INDICATED TO COMPANIES THAT IT MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO PRICE REDUCTIONS IF COMPANIES WILLING TO COME TO QUICK AGREEMENT ON TERMS OF 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER, BUT COMPANIES REFUSED TO BUY THIS PIG IN A POKE.

4. LONDON'S REPORT THAT AMIR OFFERED PRICE CONCESSION BUT SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ, MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND FINANCE AND AMIR'S SON, RENEGED, HAS PARALLED HERE. IT IS SAID THAT AMIR HAS GIVEN ABDUL AZIZ FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKEOVER AND PRICE ISSUES AS TEST OF HIS ABILITY TO PLAY FULL RATHER THAN NOMINAL ROLE IN IMPORTANT GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS. COMPANY SOURCES ATTRIBUTE WHAT THEY REGARD AS A TOUGH AND UNREASONABLE STAND BY ABDUL AZIZ TO POSTURING WHICH THEY SAY CONTRIBUTES NOTHING TO PRACTICAL PROGRESS ON PRICE AND TAKEOVER NEGOTIATIONS.

5. COMMENT: NEXT CHAPTER WILL APPARENTLY BEGIN MAY 31 WITH ARRIVAL OF COMPANY GROUP FOR DISCUSSIONS ON PARTICIPATION. (GOQ SOURCE SAID MEETING, WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SET FOR MAY 27, HAD BEEN POSTPONED FOR A FEW DAYS.) AS INDICATED IN LONDON REFTEL, THIS MEETING COULD VERY WELL PRODUCE QUICK ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, WITH DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS TO FOLLOW. SUCH ACTION MIGHT JUST TAKE ENOUGH HEAT OUT OF PRESENT SITUATION SO THAT GOQ AND COMPANIES COULD GET DOWN TO REAL BUSINESS OF TAKEOVER TERMS AND CURRENT PRICES IN MORE RELAXED MANNER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PETROLEUM, NATIONALIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DOHA00611
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0123
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaapwh.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 LONDON 7669, 75 DOHA 539
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : QATAR OIL SITUATION: 100 PERCENT TAKE OVER PRICES, ETC.
TAGS: ENRG, QA, QATAR PETROLEUM CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006